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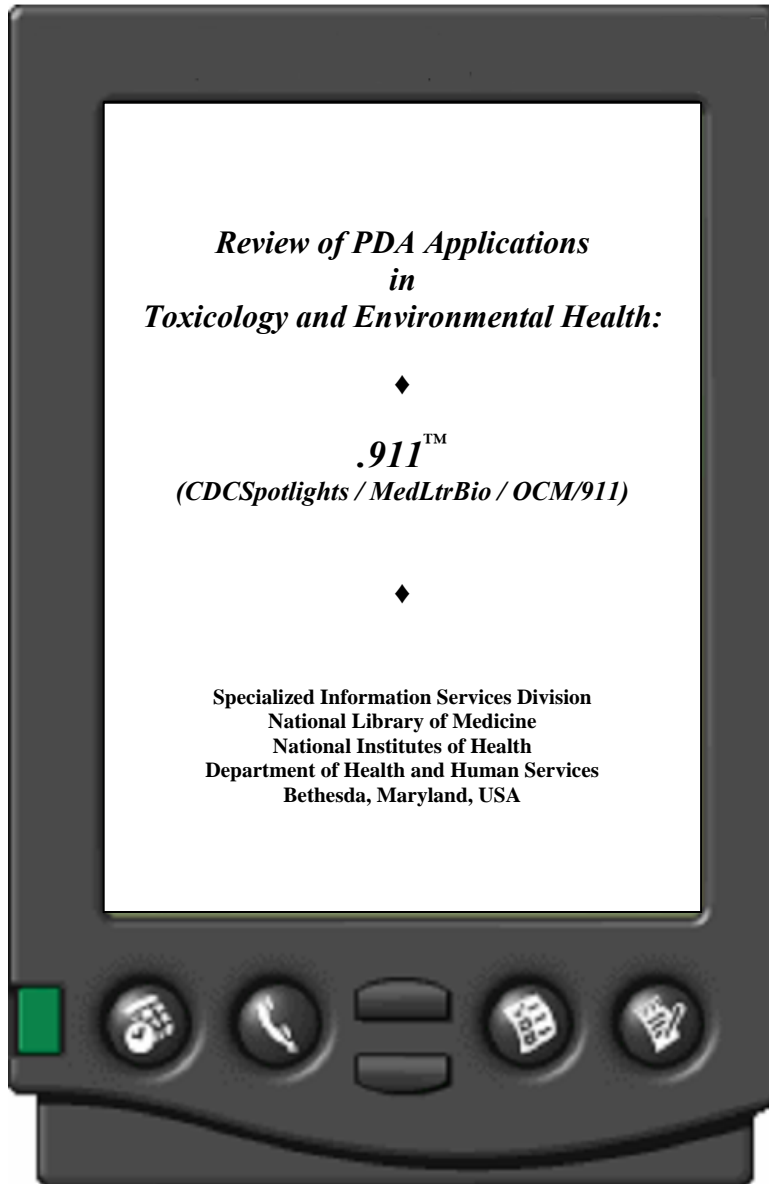
*Review of PDA Applications
in
Toxicology and Environmental Health:*



.911TM
(CDCSpotlights / MedLtrBio / OCM/911)



Specialized Information Services Division
National Library of Medicine
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health and Human Services
Bethesda, Maryland, USA



.911TM
(*CDCSpotlights / MedLtrBio / OCM/911*)
(Reviewed 03/2004)



General Information

For general comments regarding the *Review of PDA Applications in Toxicology and Environmental Health*, please see the [Overview](#). Here we review the main technical and content features of the Palm OS version of .911TM (7.7.0) based upon the downloadable freeware application. .911TM includes three individual components, which incorporate content from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (*CDCSpotlights*), from The Medical Letter (*MedLtrBio*), and from the Outlines in Clinical Medicine – Emergency Medicine Edition (*OCM/911*). .911TM is produced by Skyscape Inc. and is meant to provide medical professionals, such as doctors, nurses, and EMT staff, with information on potentially rapidly spreading diseases, including bioterrorism agents such as anthrax and smallpox.

Intended Users

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Emergency Medicine Personnel

Authorship/Data Source

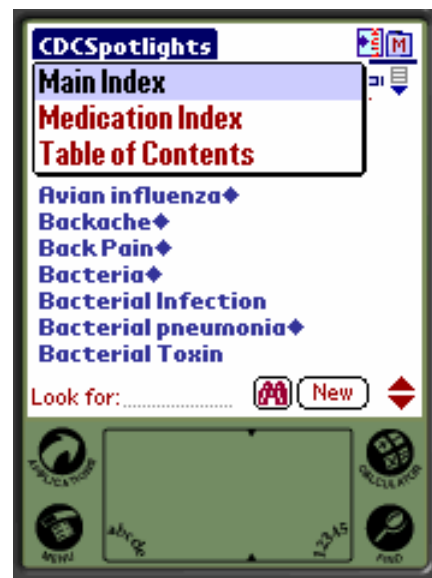
The .911TM application incorporates content from the following three sources: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (*CDCSpotlights* component, compiled from the CDC website as a public service); The Medical Letter, a nonprofit organization (*MedLtrBio* component); and Outlines in Clinical Medicine – Emergency Medicine Edition (*OCM/911* component, edited by institutional physicians). The following pages will describe separately the contents of the three individual components.

Contents – CDCSpotlights



◀ *CDCSpotlights (7.7.0/2004.2.24) – In this section, we review the main content features of the CDCSpotlights component of the .911™ application. As mentioned above, this component's content is derived from the CDC website.*

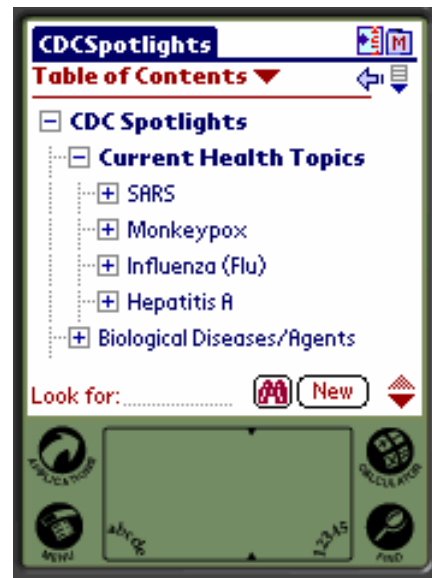
► *As shown in the screen shot to the right, the CDCSpotlights content is accessible via two separate indexes (Main Index, Medication Index) and the Table of Contents. A portion of the Main Index is shown in the bottom half of the screen. Tapping on any topic takes the user to the section that discusses or mentions that topic. A diamond to the right of a topic indicates that the topic is discussed or mentioned in two or more sections of the CDCSpotlights component.*





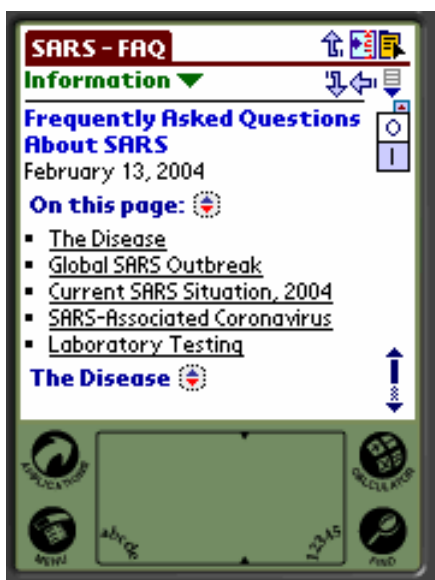
◀ The Medication Index, shown in the screen shot to the left, allows the user to access the CDCSpotlights content via a list of drugs. Tapping on any drug name takes the user to the section that discusses or mentions that drug. A diamond to the right of a drug name indicates that the drug is discussed or mentioned in two or more sections of the CDCSpotlights component.

► The top portion of the Table of Contents is shown in the screen shot to the right. The tappable, drill-down menu includes the following four main headings: Current Health Topics, Biological Diseases/Agents, Chemical Agents (not shown), and Radiological Emergencies (not shown).



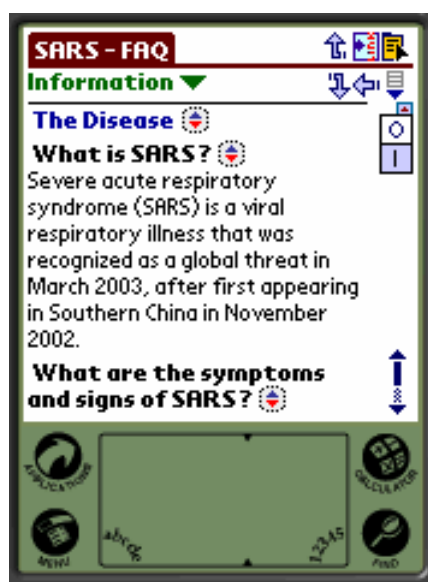
◀ Drilling down further on the Table of Contents, the screen shot to the left shows a portion of the subtopics covered for one of the main topics – SARS (featured under the Current Health Topics heading).



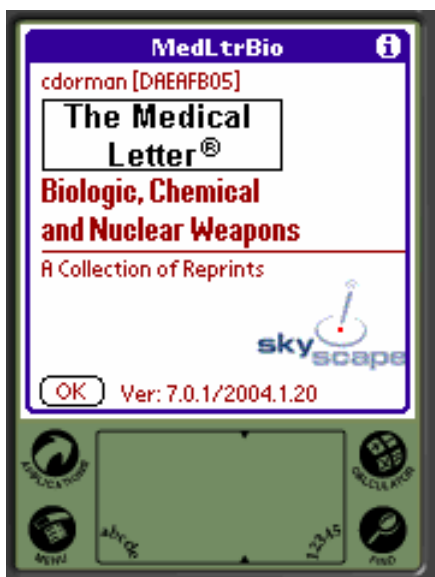


◀ By further tapping on the FAQ link under the SARS heading (shown in the previous screen shot), for example, the user will be taken to that section of the SARS information (shown in the screen shot to the left).

► Finally, tapping on the Disease heading in the SARS/FAQ section, will display the question-answer format in which some of the information in the CDCSpotlights component of the .911™ application appears. The remainder of the information appears in regular text format.



Contents – MedLtrBio

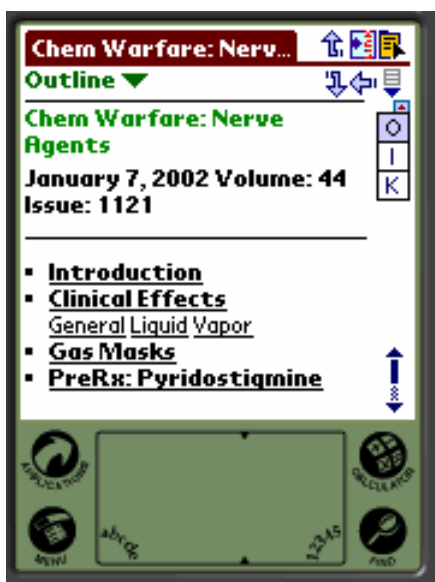


◀ MedLtrBio (7.0.1/2004.1.20) – In this section, we review the main content features of the MedLtrBio component of the .911™ application. As mentioned above, this component's content is derived from The Medical Letter.

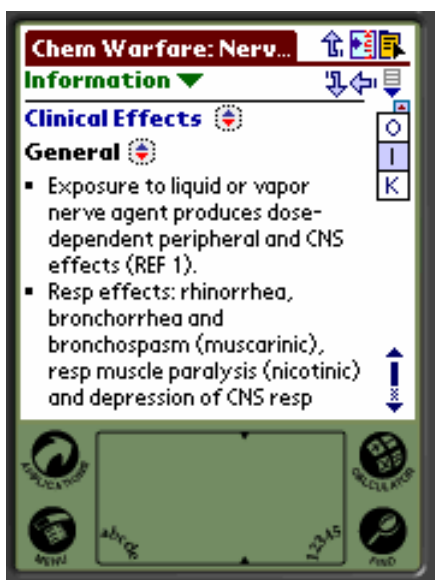


◀ As shown in the screen shot to the left, the MedLtrBio content is accessible via the Main Index and the Table of Contents. A portion of the Main Index is shown. Tapping on any topic takes the user to the section that discusses or mentions that topic. A diamond to the right of a topic indicates that the topic is discussed or mentioned in two or more sections of the MedLtrBio component.

▶ As shown in the screen shot to the right, the tappable Table of Contents includes seven main topics. Each topic is linked to a text article on that particular topic.

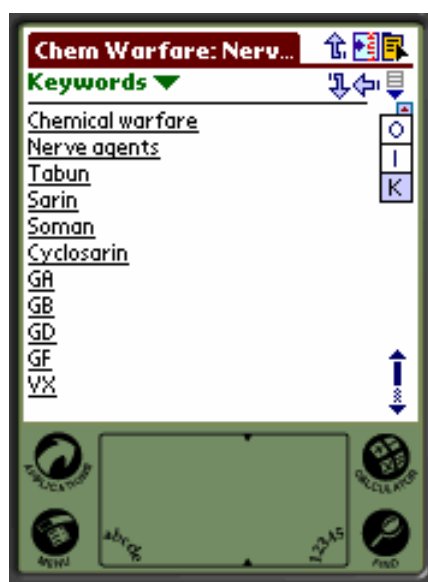


◀ As an example, by tapping on the Chem Warfare: Nerve Agents topic in the Table of Contents list shown above, the user will be taken to a screen (shown to the left) displaying an outline of the information provided on that topic. The bottom half of the screen shows the top portion of the outline.

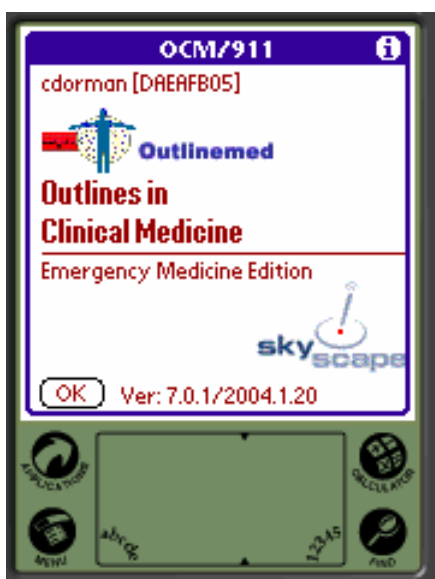


◀ Continuing with the same example, by tapping on the *Clinical Effects* subtopic in the *Chem Warfare: Nerve Agents* topic outline shown in the screen above, the user will then be taken to a screen (shown to the left) displaying the information provided on that subtopic.

► The information in each topic's section is also accessible via a list of keywords. The top portion of the keyword list for the *Chem Warfare: Nerve Agents* section is shown as an example in the screen shot to the right.



Contents – OCM/911

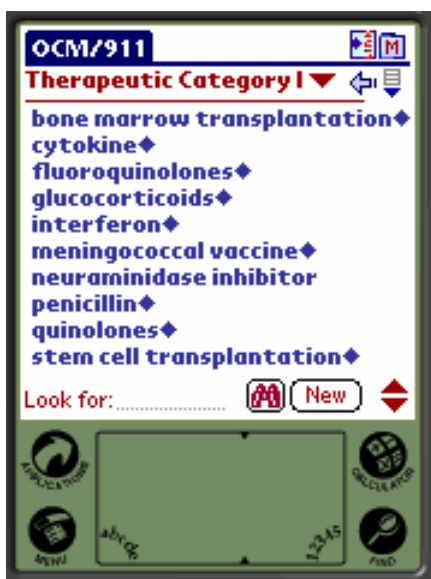


◀ *OCM/911 (7.0.1/2004.1.20)* – In this section, we review the main content features of the *OCM/911* component of the *.911™* application. As mentioned above, this component's content is derived from the *Outlines in Clinical Medicine – Emergency Medicine Edition*.



◀ As shown in the screen shot to the left, the OCM/911 content is accessible via three separate indexes (Main Index, Medications Index, Therapeutic Category Index) and the Table of Contents. A portion of the Main Index is shown in the bottom half of the screen. Tapping on any topic takes the user to the section that discusses or mentions that topic. A diamond to the right of a topic indicates that the topic is discussed or mentioned in two or more sections of the OCM/911 component.

► The Medications Index, shown in the screen shot to the right, allows the user to access the OCM/911 content via a list of drugs. Tapping on any drug name takes the user to the section that discusses or mentions that drug. A diamond to the right of a drug name indicates that the drug is discussed or mentioned in two or more sections of the OCM/911 component.

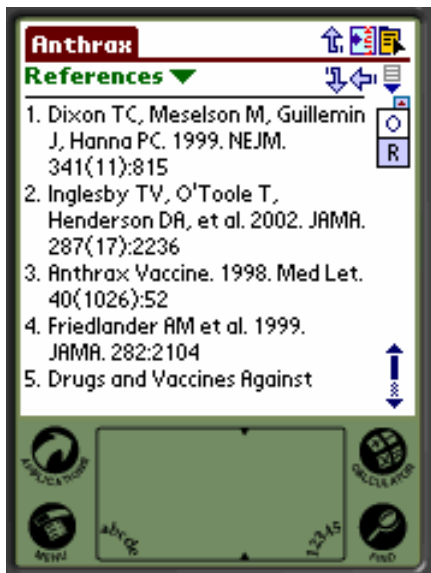
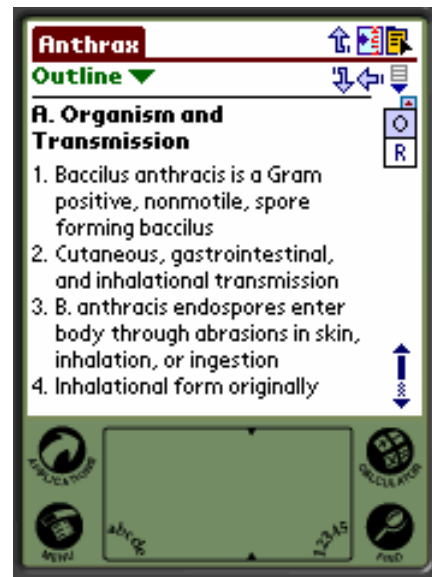


◀ A portion of the Therapeutic Category Index is shown in the screen shot to the left. Tapping on any topic takes the user to the section that discusses that topic. A diamond to the right of a topic indicates that the topic is discussed in two or more sections of the OCM/911 component.



◀ The tappable Table of Contents, shown in the screen shot to the left, lists, amongst other sections, the Medical Emergency Topics section. Each medical emergency topic is linked to a text article on that topic.

► As an example, the initial portion of the outline (summary information) for Anthrax is displayed in the screen shot to the right. In this case, the outline includes subtopics such as A. Organism and Transmission, B. Virulence Factors, C. Cutaneous Anthrax, D. Inhalational and Systemic Anthrax, E. Diagnosis, F. Treatment, and G. Vaccination.

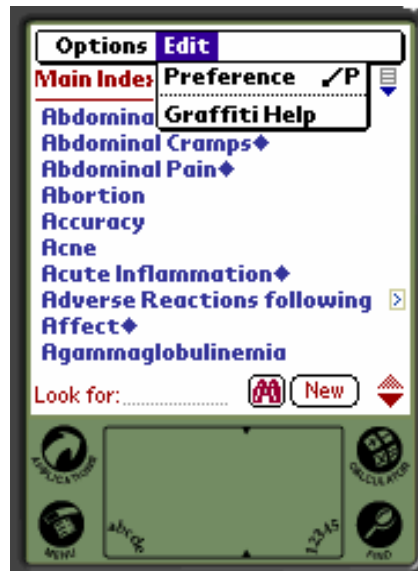
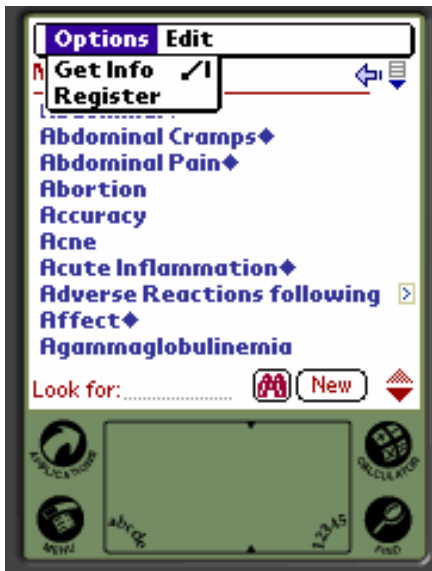



◀ The screen shot to the left displays a portion of the References section for the Anthrax topic. Note that references are to medical journals such as Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), and The Medical Letter.

Navigation

Tapping on any of the three titles (*CDCSpotlights*, *MedLtrBio*, *OCM/911*) in the top left corner of the screen provides access to the following (see two screen shots below):

- Get Info
- Register
- Preference
- Graffiti Help





Whichever of the three components of the .911™ application the user may be viewing, tapping on  (top right corner of screen in previous screen shots) always provides access to the other two components.

Tapping on  provides access to the following (see partial screen shot below):



- Main Index
- Personal Topics
- Notes




Furthermore, on most screens the user can tap on  to return to the previous screen. Additionally, the user can tap on  to access help documentation.


When in the Main Index mode of any of the three components, tapping on the triangle of **Main Index ▼** allows the user to access the following:

- Medications Index (*CDCSpotlights*, *OCM/911*)
- Therapeutic Category Index (*OCM/911*)
- Table of Contents (all components)

At the bottom of the screen, the application allows the user to perform a search. By typing text into the space following **Look for:.....**, an incremental search is initiated, and the list scrolls in response to the user's input. The user can also type a set of letters into the space and tap ; upon tapping  again, the user will be taken to the next occurrence of that set of letters.

The  button allows the user to add new content to any of the application's components under the Personal Topics heading. New content that may be added includes:

- A topic name
- An outline section
- An information section
- A keyword section

Any created topic may later be deleted by tapping on the  at the top of the screen.

Requirements

- ❖ Palm OS (reviewed here) or Windows Pocket PC
- ❖ 2.4 MB of RAM

Application Type/Price

- ❖ Freeware

Availability

The .911™ (*CDCSpotlights* / *MedLtrBio* / *OCM/911*) application is available from commercial PDA software distributors.

Useful Web Links

For information about the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), visit www.cdc.gov. For information about The Medical Letter, go to www.medicalletter.org. For information about OutlineMed Inc., visit www.outlinemed.com. For information on Skyscape Inc., go to www.skyscape.com.

Review of PDA Applications in Toxicology and Environmental Health

Overview

Handheld computer devices known as Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) are increasingly being used in the fields of toxicology and environmental health. Moreover, software applications covering specialized subject matter in these fields are increasingly being made available to PDA users.

In an effort to provide information on the main technical and content features of selected applications, the National Library of Medicine's Division of Specialized Information Services (SIS) has undertaken an ongoing review of them. Typically, individual reports in the review series are based on free, downloadable demos.

Each report typically covers the following topics: General Information, Intended Users, Authorship/Data Source, Contents, Navigation, Requirements, Application Type/Price, Availability, Useful Web Links, and Updates.



Note: The *Review of PDA Applications in Toxicology and Environmental Health* is not intended to be all comprehensive, but rather a review of selected applications. SIS staff welcomes any comments on completed reviews or suggestions for additional reviews of applications not currently included, as long as they fall within the scope of toxicology and environmental health. You may contact us via email at tehip@tehl.nlm.nih.gov with any comments, questions, or suggestions.

It is not the intention of SIS staff to recommend, or not recommend, any particular PDA device(s) or software application(s), but rather to provide an objective and descriptive review of the main technical and content features of selected applications based on their downloadable demo versions.

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